

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner objected to the disclosure as containing informalities. Claims 1-24 were indicated to be allowable if amended to overcome the informalities noted by the Examiner. Prosecution on the merits was closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle.

Applicants and applicants' counsel note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter concerning claims 1-24.

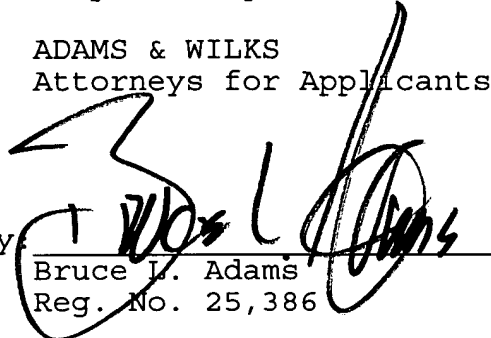
In accordance with the present response, claims 1-24 have been amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Claims 1-24 have been further amended in formal respects to improve the wording and to bring them into better conformance with U.S. practice. A new abstract which more clearly reflects the invention to which the amended claims are directed has been substituted for the original abstract. Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments to the abstract and claims do not intrude new matter into the originally filed disclosure.

In view of the foregoing amendments to allowable claims 1-24 and the submission of the new abstract, the application is now in condition for formal allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.


Bruce L. Adams

Name

Signature

September 22, 2003

Date